

92

Why SPAIN Can Win

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WHY SPAIN CAN WIN

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THERE is an old American saying: "Don't believe all you read in the newspapers." Nowadays, it is hard to believe anything you read in the papers. We Americans understood that so well during the 1936 Presidential elections that we overwhelmingly elected Franklin D. Roosevelt despite the hostility of eighty per cent of the American press—which labored overtime libeling the New Deal program.

The Tory press today is engaged in a crooked campaign that matches any perfidy they ever cooked up—and they have cooked up plenty.

The Lords of the Press have set themselves to convince the American people that the war in Spain is ended; that Franco is the master. Their purpose is to demobilize the seventy-six per cent of the American people who want to see a Loyalist victory—and who want to do something to ensure that victory.

The Lords of the Press want to see a Franco victory. A Franco victory means a Hitler and Mussolini victory. That means danger to the security of America—a menace to you and your family—a peril to the progress of all mankind.

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Defeat of democracy in Spain would be a terrible blow to the national security of this nation; it would mean that Hitler and Mussolini have completed a military and economic bridge across the Atlantic to our continent—to Latin America.

At the outset we will prove that the war in Spain is not over—not by a long shot.

Look at the Map

First of all, look at the map: Republican Spain continues its resistance in the third of the nation that remains democratic. It has Madrid—a metropolis of 800,000 souls. It has Valencia, a rich seaport with close to half a million population. It has Alicante, a fine harbor with 100,000 people. Republican Spain has five hundred miles of coastline. It has at least three good ports—Valencia, Alicante, Cartagena. It has more than eight million people. It has a navy that sank Franco's battleship, the *Baleares*. It has developed a native munitions industry since the war began, manufacturing weapons of defense. It has splendid fortifications about Madrid, about Valencia. It has eleven provincial capitals; it has a steeled army of 700,000 men.

Does that sound like a nation defeated?

Premier Juan Negrin and Foreign Minister Alvarez del Vayo have flown to Valencia to continue to guide the war. General Jose Miaja, the great military man who organized the defense of Madrid, continues to direct the armies—to organize the defenses. "We shall fight on," Negrin said at the Cortes

meeting in Figueras last month. He spoke for Spain.

Republican Spain has the heart to hold out. The eight million ready themselves for battle to prevent the fascist invaders—the Hitler, Mussolini, Franco hordes—from destroying the splendid democracy that arose in Spain since the Popular Front victory at the polls in February, 1936. The Popular Front remains powerful, unbroken, unshaken by the assaults of Hitler machinery, Mussolini aviation, Franco mercenaries.

No, indeed. Republican Spain is not defeated; Franco has not won the day; the legal government of Spain is not suing for peace.

That there may be a weak sister or two in the government may be true; but they don't represent the will of the people. The actual government has returned to Central Spain. If anybody remains in Paris to negotiate behind the back of the Spanish people for submission to fascism, he does so on his own responsibility. He speaks only for himself, as an individual. You can always find the faint-hearted who wants to desert a fight when the going gets tough. If there are any such "suing for peace," rest assured they do not represent the millions of Republican Spain who remain stout-hearted; who want to continue the fight. The army that was pushed back to France in Catalonia was never routed; it fought every inch of the way.

Then why did they lose Catalonia, you ask? Here is why:

The ratio in materials was ten to one. A torrent of

steel forced the Loyalists back to Le Perthus and to Port Bou on the French frontier. The Loyalists retreated in orderly manner. The haggard men fought brilliantly, worn by the furious battle that began December 21—but they adequately covered their retreat so that the thousands of refugees got across the border into France.

Never was courage more obvious—the will to win stronger—than in this great adversity. General Modesto's Republican troops crossed into France singing their national hymn. This was no shattered army.

Consider what the enemy had—thanks to Hitler and Mussolini and “non-intervention” which allowed Der Fuehrer and Il Duce to ship all that Franco needed, but forbade the Republic to buy its essential war materials on the open market—a direct violation of international law.

Franco's strength in the Catalonia campaign consisted of a quarter million invaders and Spanish Rebel troops against the Loyalists' 120,000 men.

Franco had 3,000 artillery pieces, the Loyalists 300.

Franco had 500 tanks; the Loyalists 50.

Franco had 800 planes; the Loyalists 50.

The Republicans had a two-week supply of shells to match the unlimited materials that poured in from Rome and Berlin.

The Loyalist army—all Spaniards—fought four Italian “mixed” divisions containing almost exclusively Italians, one Moorish corps containing four

divisions; the Nazi Condor Legion of aviation units; the Foreign Legion—the Tercero—composed of White Guard Russians, Portuguese and others.

The Loyalists held out for eight days in the Borjas Blancas sector. On the ninth their artillery lacked shells. Borjas Blancas fell, Artesa de Segre fell; and the battle changed from one of position to one of movement. Exhaustion played its part; the enemy changed troops every three days and kept attacking daily. The enemy aircraft bombed the cities incessantly, murdered hundreds more of women and babies, harried the people back home.

And so “Franco” took Catalonia; a shameful victory won by steel against men; a victory won by the treachery of “non-intervention,” of spurious “neutrality.”

Spain's Valley Forge

Republican Spain today stands where Republican America stood at Valley Forge. Remember your history: New York, Long Island, New Jersey had fallen to the British and their German mercenaries—the Hessians. British Tory officers arrogantly taunted Americans with being a “ragamuffin army.”

Tom Paine wrote then:

“These are times that try men's souls . . . tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”



This map, prepared by the Lawyers Committee on Relations with Spain, shows more vividly than any article or picture how a victory by Hitler and Mussolini

in Spain menaces the Americas, and why it is the right and duty of all Americans to demand the lifting of the embargo on Spain.

Such men as Benedict Arnold schemed to stab the Republic in the back; there are always traitors in the ranks of all democratic people. But history knows what the ragamuffin army achieved.

American democracy lived.

Again in 1812-1815 the British attacked America. Washington was sacked and burned to the ground; the Atlantic Coast ports were laid waste; Maine fell into British hands; Nantucket was captured, Cape Cod towns sacked, Baltimore shelled, Alexandria plundered.

Then General Jackson—Old Hickory—that people's general—took New Orleans and turned the tide.

So it is with Spain. The war is far from hopeless. Far from it. Spain has lived through black days before—and survived. When Napoleon invaded the peninsula in 1808 he won battles for four years—and lost the war. He had the Spanish government down to a small island of land in Andalusia, in the deep South—a territory far smaller than what it has today. The people rallied, the relationship of world forces shifted during the Spanish resistance, and Napoleon was swept out of the peninsula in 1813. This defeat paved the way to his disaster at Waterloo. Mussolini and Hitler had better read their history, too.

The goodwill of tens of millions of people throughout the world remains ardently for Republican Spain. They burn to help the country. They realize the travesty of the so-called Non-Interven-

tion measures; they know that our "neutrality" legislation helps the aggressor, penalizes the defender.

President Roosevelt made that clear in his address to Congress on January 4 of this year. According to the Gallup Poll, 76 per cent of the American people want to see a Loyalist victory. They have come to realize—despite the Lords of the Press—that Loyalist Spain fights for democracy; that Loyalist Spain stands for peace and freedom against the invading hordes; that Loyalist Spain has religious liberty as guaranteed by the Constitution of 1931, and reiterated in the Thirteen Point Program of Premier Negrin May 1, 1938. They have come to understand that priests hold mass in Loyalist Spain; that the talk of burning churches, murdering priests, etc., is Franco propaganda perpetrated by the Hearst press, repeated by certain fascist-minded clerics who make a travesty of the Catholic Church—such men as Father Coughlin.

The Danger to America

Yes, the American people have come to realize that; and more than that—they understand too that a Hitler-Mussolini dominated Spain is a direct threat to America—is an infinitely great danger to world peace.

Again, let us look at the map.

Spain is the European bridgehead toward Latin America, our neighbors. The U.S.A. has a five billion dollar business below the Rio Grande. Thousands of jobs depend upon that intercourse of trade.

Hitler and Mussolini and their Far Eastern axis partner, the Japanese war-lord, are making dangerous inroads into Latin America.

Germany has thirty-nine fully equipped landing fields in South America.

Germany has superseded the United States in trade with Brazil.

Germany has vast steel and munitions plants in Chile.

Mussolini's officers train the Bolivian army.

Mussolini has built the largest hangar in South America in Peru. Peru is less than 24 hours by air from the Panama Canal.

Mussolini's agents control the police force in Lima, Peruvian capital.

Mussolini has invested more than \$100,000,000 in Peru.

Mussolini's ships carry heavy cargoes of Italian artillery and machine guns to Peru.

And remember this: Nazi Germany already has an air-bridge to South America. A twenty-four hour flight separates the African East Coast from Brazil.

Forty-eight hours separate Berlin from Brazil.

The hop is from Berlin, southwest to the African coast, thence to Brazil. A Hitler-dominated Spain cuts down the time.

A fascist Spain would menace democratic France, Great Britain. While Herbert "Breadline" Hoover and other reactionary isolationists play the Nazis' game in this country by scoffing at the danger of war and accusing President Roosevelt of "war-monger-

ing," all indications point to France as the next victim of the fascist axis.

Yesterday: Czechoslovakia.

Today: France.

Tomorrow: America?

That's how it is working out. In today's conspiracy against France the Chamberlain government, despite all its avowals of solidarity with its neighbor across the channel, plays the same role it did in the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

On January 30, Hitler announced in his speech to the Reichstag that Germany would support Italy in any war she might wage.

On February 5, Virginio Gayda, chief Mussolini spokesman, published an article in which he threw overboard Mussolini's—and Chamberlain's—"solemn pledges" that Italian troops would be withdrawn from Spain as soon as hostilities were over. And he made a clear threat of military action against France.

Chamberlain—the brains behind the Hitler-Mussolini-Franco mob (to use gangster terminology as befits their diplomacy)—continues his treachery. That treachery menaces world peace. That treachery has its exponents here—those who follow the policies of Hoover, of Coughlin and Fritz Kuhn.

"Stand quiet," they say, "Let Germany and Italy alone. It is none of our business. There is no danger of war," etc., etc.

Appease the brigands—and all the time the brigands pile up their resources, round out their

strategy, preparing for their ultimate goal—conquest of the world for fascism.

To do that they must come in conflict with the democracies—France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union. They hope to divide and scatter the democratic lineup. That is their tactic, and the isolationists in America play directly into their hands.

But believers in democracy are not asleep at the switch everywhere: in Great Britain the workers of thirteen airplane factories walked out, demanding that aid be given to Spain. A democratic lineup is growing to oust Chamberlain. Likewise in France where 300 Deputies in parliament have banded together to aid Spain.

Spain is in the front line on behalf of world democracy. They battle there not only to defend themselves but to defend us—you and me and our families.

Lift the Embargo!

Spain has held out for more than two and a half years against terrific odds, thus delaying a general world war. They fight our fight.

But our government has been discriminating against a sister democracy by imposing the embargo on them; by the infamous "neutrality" legislation.

Our neutrality laws aid the aggressor, harm our democratic friends. These laws help cut our own throats.

You have looked at the maps of Spain and of Latin America.

You see how our destiny is intertwined with the fate of Republican Spain.

It is a duty to democracy, to progress, to peace—to act now to aid Spain. *Aid to Spain can prevent a world war!* Here is what can be done:

1. *Write or wire Senator Key Pittman, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in Washington to lift the embargo. Send similar telegrams to the President and to your Congressman.*

2. *Help raise food to send to Spain. The ship Erica Reed arrived and did splendid work. You can do this through the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, at 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City.*

3. *Hold meetings, set all your friends in the unions and all organizations to work to lift the embargo.*

4. *Convince Catholics that Loyalist Spain is not hostile to the church. Show them it is Franco, Hitler's stooge, and boss of the Mohammedan mercenaries, who menaces Christianity.*

"These are times that try men's souls . . .," Tom Paine said. "If ever there was a just war since the world began it is this one in which America is now engaged," he wrote in 1776.

If he were alive today he would say the same of Republican Spain.

It is a just war; it is a war between democracy and fascist invaders. Helping Spain helps America today and generations tomorrow.

Only enemies or cowards say it is too late. TCC

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